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**Quarterly Labour Force Survey,
2nd Quarter 2008
(South Africa)**

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)

CODEBOOK

SADA 0162

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

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Statistics South Africa. *Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2nd Quarter 2008* [Computer file]. S0162. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2008. Pretoria: South African Data Archive, National Research Foundation [distributor], 2009.

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STUDY DESCRIPTION

SADA 0162

TITLE: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2nd Quarter 2008

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)

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KEYWORDS:

Employment; Unemployment; Household surveys; Housing; Informal sector; Labour supply.

SERIES DATA:

Series name:	Principal Investigator:	Currently available:
Labour Force Survey; February and September	Statistics South Africa	2000 – 2002
Labour Force Survey; March and September	Statistics South Africa	2003 – 2007
The South African Labour Force Survey Panel, 2006	Statistics South Africa	2006
Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 1 st Quarter – 4 th Quarter	Statistics South Africa	2008 – 2011

ABSTRACT:

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based sample survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). It collects data on the labour market activities of individuals aged 15 years or older who live in South Africa. Starting in 2005, Stats SA undertook a major revision of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which was conducted twice per year since 2000. This revision resulted in changes to the survey methodology, the survey questionnaire, the frequency of data collection and data releases, and the survey data capture and processing systems. The redesigned labour market survey is the QLFS which is now the principal vehicle for disseminating labour market information on a quarterly basis.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: South Africa

IMPORTANT VARIABLES: Employment, unemployment, informal sector.

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES: Age, gender, level of education, marital status, migration, use of health services, economic activity, unemployment, employment and self-employment.

UNIVERSE: Households in the nine provinces of South Africa

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: Survey Questionnaire

SAMPLING:

The Labour Force Survey frame has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other household surveys irrespective of the sample size requirement of the survey. The sample size for the QLFS is roughly 30 000 dwellings.

The sample is based on information collected during the 2001 Population Census conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2001, the country was divided into 80 787 enumeration areas (EAs). Some of these EAs are small in terms of the number of households that were enumerated in them at the time of Census 2001. Stats SA's household-based surveys use a Master Sample of Primary Sampling units (PSUs) which comprises EAs that are drawn from across the country. For the purposes of the Master Sample, the EAs that contained fewer than 25 households were excluded from the sampling frame, and those that contained between 25 and 99 households were combined with other EAs of the same geographic type to form Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The number of EAs per PSU ranges between one and four. On the other hand, very large EAs represent two or more PSUs.

The sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at the metro/non-metro level. Within the metros, the sample is further distributed by geography type. The four geography types are: urban formal, urban informal, farms, and tribal. This implies that, for example, within a metropolitan area the sample is designed to be representative at the different geography types that may exist within that metro.

The current sample size is 3 080 PSUs. It is equally divided into four subgroups or panels called rotation groups. The rotation groups are designed in such a way that each of these groups has the same distribution pattern as that which is observed in the whole sample. They are numbered from one to four and these numbers also correspond to the quarters of the year in which the sample will be rotated for the particular group. The sample for the redesigned Labour Force Survey is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of primary sampling units (PSUs) in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

UNITS OF OBSERVATION: Households

DATE OF DATA COLLECTION: April – June 2008.

EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION: 1 data file in ASCII and machine-readable documentation.

FILE SPECIFICATIONS:

Part 1: Data File

Number of cases:	93 945
Number of records:	93 945
Number of records per case:	1
Logical Record Length:	252
Number of variables:	138
Number of kilobytes:	23 303 KB

PUBLICATIONS:

Statistics South Africa. 2008. Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2008. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa.

NOTES:

Most questions in the Labour Force Survey questionnaire are pre-coded, i.e. there is a set number of options from which one or more must be selected. For open-ended (write-in) questions, the description will note that post-coding occurred and explain how this was done. For most variables the coding is apparent from the questionnaire (available elsewhere in the documentation) and is not repeated in the variable description. Where the coding is not apparent, the description either provides the codes or indicates where code lists are to be found.

RESTRICTIONS:

Only available to bona fide researchers.

DATE STUDY ADDED:

19 May 2009